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script in Colonel Durrett's library in Louisville, Ky. We shall hope that it is one of the "journals" of exploration west of the Allegheny Mountains that Colonel Durrett says in his preface the Filson Club has marked for publication. We could have wished, too, for some bibliographical notes in connection with the treatment of the Loyal Land Company, but we have nothing. And so with respect to the Ohio Company. If the original papers of this company are still in existence, there are those who would like to know the fact, and also to be told where they are; but no matter whether they are in existence or not, we are entitled, in such a case as this, to some fuller indication of sources.

Introductions, biographical sketches and appendices consisting mainly of minor documents accompany each journal as well as the commentary. In respect to ancillary documents that would illustrate the journals, we rate the work below Mr. Darlington's edition of *Christopher Gist's Journals*, already mentioned—a title that reminds us of the fact that Gist made two other exploring expeditions south of the Ohio besides the one here reported. Still the work is a valuable contribution to history, and, it is almost needless to say, appears in the sumptuous style that has marked the publications of the Filson Club from the beginning. Viewed from the safe distance of a century and a half, the simple transactions here narrated in the simplest manner may not seem to be important; they did not indeed immediately hasten the enterprises upon which the two land companies had entered, but rather tended to defeat them; but they did hasten transactions of such tremendous importance that, for the time, the two land companies, Walker and Gist, their plans and explorations were forgotten. Perhaps there are in our history no records of purely business undertakings that led more directly to results of cardinal importance, or more clearly demonstrated the close connection of business affairs with political and military history.

B. A. HINSDALE.

The American Revolution. By the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE OTTO TREVELYAN, Bart. Part I., 1766–1776. (London and New York: Longmans, Green and Co. 1899. Pp. xiv, 434.)

To the critic who demands correctness of historical proportion, it is something of a shock to find a history of the American Revolution beginning with a chapter on the gambling escapades and the youthful correspondence of Charles James Fox. While it is undoubtedly true that "the story of Fox between 1774 and 1782 is inextricably interwoven with the story of the American Revolution," it is less obvious that the history of this epoch requires so extensive a warp of the biography of Fox, as runs through the present volume. The explanation is furnished by the author, however, who tells us that it was impossible for him to continue the biography of Fox, which he left but partly written eighteen years ago, without a broad survey of the whole field of English and American relations in the period of the war for independence. The

volume is thus an attempt at a biography of Fox and a history of the Revolution at the same time ; a distorted perspective was inevitable.

This distortion, however, is not so great as the first chapter would lead us to expect. But the author's position, as the apologist of Fox, furnishes another peculiarity of the book ; it is an important reaction from the recent American tendency to state the English side of the case, in this momentous struggle between mother country and colonial dependencies. Trevelyan is distinctly as vigorous and thoroughgoing a critic of the policy of the English government as any of the earlier radical American historians of repute, who have dealt with the subject. In this respect the book is likely to exercise its most important popular influence. It is the most effective presentation of the fact that the struggle for independence was in truth a phase of a struggle between two great English parties, fought out on both sides of the water : in the mother country in the forum, in the colonies on the field of battle. The general reader will find no stronger statement of the justness of the cause of the colonists than is embraced in this volume. Indeed, at times the author's party predilections and his admiration for things American seem to have led him to neglect some of the strong points in the government's side of the case.

A third peculiarity of the book is likewise due to its biographical character. In no other history of the period are so clearly brought out the contrasts between the personalities of the leaders of the contest on either side of the water. The picture of American society which the author draws by his gossip presentation of the traits and daily life of men like Franklin, the Atlamses, Hamilton, Putnam, Greene and Washington furnishes a clever foil to the picture of contemporaneous high life in England, as revealed by the careers of Fox, the Duke of Grafton, George III. and his "friends," and all the pleasure-loving English statesmen, who "for a fox-chase quit Saint Stephen's dome," or

"At crowded Almack's nightly bet
To stretch their own beyond the nation's debt."

It must be admitted that the portraits of the rival societies are done rather in the spirit of the raconteur than of the prosy historian, who attempts more thorough-going study of the rival civilizations ; and yet in spite of the conversational lightness of the tone, the chapter on Britain and her Colonies is not only immensely interesting, but is a valuable contribution. One of the most noteworthy defects in the view on the colonial side, is the lack of discrimination between sections in America. For example, it is spreading New England's type over too large an area, when the author declares that the children of what in Europe was called the lower class were "taught at the expense of the township." The planter type of aristocracy nowhere receives adequate portrayal, nor are the aristocratic tendencies of the society of parts of New England and the middle section recognized.

Aside from the social and economic factors, the author fails to give

any adequate account of the eighteenth-century legal, administrative, and political contentions between the authorities of the mother country and the colonies. Strange to say, the work of Chalmers on this subject, to say nothing of the material in the Public Record Office, has either been left alone, or rejected for the more appetizing personalities in the correspondence furnished by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, memoirs, etc.

It is needless to say that this constitutes a grave limitation on the value of the book as a study of the origin of the war for independence. But it cannot be denied that it is delightful reading. It was a happy thought to contrast the men and measures of the Continental Congress of 1774 with the general English election of that year. Here the author gives us a most helpful insight into the radical unlikenesses between the contending forces. Perhaps the chatty sidelights on the careers and characters of the soldiers and statesmen who fought out the opening period of the Revolution are the most characteristic features of the author's treatment. The phrase used by him in the opening paragraph of the first chapter, "epicure in history," is not an inapt description of some of his tendencies. Occasional overstatements are perhaps due to this love of the striking. Such for example are the affirmations that American independence must result from the Boston massacre; that the tidings of the burning of Falmouth and the news of the British intention to use German mercenaries by their simultaneous effect "killed outright all hope, or even desire of conciliation;" and the comparison of Governor Hutchinson to Verres.

Among the most interesting pages in the book are the sketches of the battle of Lexington and the battle of Bunker Hill. In connection with the latter, one is impressed with the author's tribute to the British valor on that day.

"For they had that in them which raised them to the level of a feat of arms to which it is not easy and perhaps not even possible to recall a parallel. Awful as was the slaughter of Albuera, the contest was eventually decided by a body, however scanty, of fresh troops. The cavalry which pierced the French centre at Blenheim had been hotly engaged but, for the most part, had not been worsted. But at Bunker's Hill every corps had been decimated several times over; and yet the same battalions, or what was left of them, a third time mounted that fatal slope with the intention of staying on the summit."

No less interesting is his tribute to Washington and his penetration into his military capacity. "On those rare occasions," he writes, "when Washington had the means to assume the offensive, his action was as swift, as direct, as continuous, and (for its special characteristic) as unexpected as that of any captain in history."

The volume brings the war down to the evacuation of Boston. No reader of the present work will be likely to await with anything less than impatience the continuation of this most interesting and in many respects

novel view of the great epoch of separation between the Anglo-Saxon people of America and England.

FREDERICK J. TURNER.

Esek Hopkins, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Navy during the American Revolution, 1775 to 1778, Master Mariner, Politician, Brigadier-General, Naval Officer and Philanthropist. By EDWARD FIELD. (Providence: The Preston and Rounds Co. 1898. Pp. xiii, 280.)

THE author's work in the sources of the history of Rhode Island entitles him to attention. He now brings forward an interesting, illustrated biography of a man hardly known outside his native locality. Bancroft does not mention him, while Arnold treats the incidents of his career in their historic bearing, justly but with meagre interest. The more famous brother Stephen played an important part in Congress and was the immediate cause of the appointment of Esek Hopkins to organize and lead our infant navy.

Ample material exists in the form of official orders, letters and other papers incidental to the unlucky life of the admiral. In the eighteenth century the life of the little colony was essentially maritime, taking into itself the engrossing flavors of the sea. Her leading men were foreign merchants on the land or captains on deck of the craft, which plied to the West Indies, to the ports of Europe, and later to the Orient seas. Descended from Thomas Hopkins, one of the founders of Providence Plantations, Esek became a sailor and manifested great force of character, whether in peaceful commerce, or in the erratic venturesome course of the privateer. Moses Brown noted in 1757 that Captain Hopkins had captured and sent in a snow "laden with wine, oil, Dry Goods, &c., to the amount of about" £6000. The four brothers Brown were rich and powerful merchants, and Hopkins commanded their vessels, as well as others. He sailed everywhere, and was reported at Surinam in 1769.

In the intervals of voyage, he was active in public affairs, though his restless nature would not let him stay long at home. He was upright and sincere, being honored as a school-committeeman, fireward, tax assessor and deputy, or representative as we should say. He was aggressive in speech and carried the abrupt manner of the time from the quarter-deck into private life. These tendencies increased with his years and helped to magnify the troubles of his later life.

Although such training would not fit or develop a commander of any navy in 1899, it was the best to be had then. When the matter of a fleet came before Congress, Rhode Island led the way. Her plan was adopted after much discussion and violent opposition. "Little Americans" were as active when our country was small, as they are now when it has become great. Chase of Maryland said in 1775, "it is the maddest idea in the world to think of building an American fleet, its latitude is wonderful, we should mortgage the whole continent." When we consider the